Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for amplifying a cDNA comprising:
obtaining an mRNA;
reverse transcribing the mRNA into cDNA with reverse transcriptase without RNase H activity so that a cDNA-mRNA complex is formed;
degrading the mRNA from the cDNA-mRNA complex to form a linear cDNA;
ligating the ends of said linear cDNA to form a circular cDNA;
introducing first and second sequence specific primers to said circular cDNA wherein said first primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 5' end of said circular cDNA and said second primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 3' end of said circular cDNA ; and
initiating a primer extension amplification reaction to increase copy number of said circular cDNA.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said primer extension amplification reaction is a polymerase chain reaction.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said polymerase chain reaction is employed with Taq polymerase or other heat-resisted DNA polymerase.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said PCR is touchdown PCR.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
harvesting said amplified cDNA.

Clam 7 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said ligase is T4 DNA ligase.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said primer is a degenerate primer.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second primers are designed to hybridize to from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases from a sequence known or suspected to be present in said circular cDNA.

Claims 10-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method for amplifying a cDNA, including the 5' and 3' ends, comprising:

obtaining an mRNA;

contacting the mRNA with reverse transcriptase without RNase H so that a cDNA-mRNA complex is formed;

degrading the mRNA from the cDNA-mRNA complex to form a linear cDNA;

circularizing said cDNA

contacting the circularized cDNA with first and second sequence specific primers wherein said first primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 5' end of said circular cDNA and said second primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 3' end of said circular cDNA; and

introducing a polymerase and a supply of nucleotide bases to said circularized cDNA so that an amplification reaction occurs, wherein said region of said cDNA outside of said first and second primers including the 3' and 5' ends of said cDNA is amplified.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 12 wherein said ligase is T4 DNA ligase.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said primer is a degenerate primer.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said forward and reverse primers are designed to hybridize to from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases from a sequence known or suspected to be present in said circular cDNA.

Claims 16-25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A method for amplifying a cDNA comprising:

obtaining an mRNA;

reverse transcribing the mRNA into cDNA with reverse transcriptase without RNase H activity so that a cDNA-mRNA complex is formed;

degrading the mRNA from the cDNA-mRNA complex to form a linear cDNA;

ligating the ends of said linear cDNA to form a circular cDNA;

introducing first and second sequence specific promoters wherein said primers are degenerate primers and wherein said first primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 5' end of said circular cDNA and said second primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 3' end of said circular cDNA; and

initiating a primer extension amplification reaction to increase copy number of said circular cDNA.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A method for amplifying a cDNA comprising:

obtaining an mRNA;

reverse transcribing the mRNA into cDNA with reverse transcriptase without RNase H activity so that a cDNA-mRNA complex is formed;

degrading the mRNA from the cDNA complex to form a linear cDNA;

ligating the ends of said circular cDNA to form a circular cDNA;

introducing first and second sequence specific primers to said circular cDNA, wherein said first and second primers are designed to hybridize to from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases from a sequence known or suspected to be present in said circular cDNA and wherein said first primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 5' end of said circular cDNA and said second primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 3' end of said circular cDNA; and

initiating a primer extension amplification reaction to increase copy number of said circular cDNA.

Claims 28-31 (Cancelled)